

## CLAIMS

1. A method for preserving food comprising: putting food in a container having an inner surface coated with a metal-modified apatite or in a container made of a material to which the metal-modified apatite is added, the metal-modified apatite having an apatite crystal structure including metal atoms partially comprising photocatalytic metal; and placing the container in a dark place at least temporarily.

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2. The method for preserving food according to claim 1, wherein the metal-modified apatite has a chemical structure obtained by replacing part of Ca contained in calcium hydroxyapatite with Ti.

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3. The method for preserving food according to claim 1, wherein the metal-modified apatite after production has undergone sintering at 580 to 660°C.

20 4. A method for preserving food comprising: wrapping food or a container containing food with a food wrapping film having a surface coated with a metal-modified apatite or with a food wrapping film made of a material to which the metal-modified apatite is added, the metal-modified apatite having an apatite crystal structure including metal atoms partially comprising photocatalytic metal; and placing the food or the container in a dark place at least temporarily.

5. The method for preserving food according to claim 4, wherein the metal-modified apatite has a chemical structure obtained by replacing part of Ca contained in calcium hydroxyapatite with Ti.

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6. The method for preserving food according to claim 4, wherein the metal-modified apatite after production has undergone sintering at 580 to 660°C.

10 7. A method for preserving food comprising: applying a metal-modified apatite to a surface of food or adding the metal-modified apatite to food, the metal-modified apatite having an apatite crystal structure including metal atoms partially comprising photocatalytic metal; and placing the  
15 food in a dark place at least temporarily.

8. The method for preserving food according to claim 7, wherein the metal-modified apatite has a chemical structure obtained by replacing part of Ca contained in calcium hydroxyapatite  
20 with Ti.

9. The method for preserving food according to claim 7, wherein the metal-modified apatite after production has undergone sintering at 580 to 660°C.

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10. A method for keeping tableware comprising: placing tableware having a surface coated with a metal-modified apatite

or tableware made of a material to which the metal-modified apatite is added in a dark place at least temporarily, the metal-modified apatite having an apatite crystal structure including metal atoms partially comprising photocatalytic metal.

11. The method for keeping tableware according to claim 10, wherein the metal-modified apatite has a chemical structure obtained by replacing part of Ca contained in calcium hydroxyapatite with Ti.

12. The method for keeping tableware according to claim 10, wherein the metal-modified apatite after production has undergone sintering at 580 to 660°C.

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13. A food container having an inner surface coated with a metal-modified apatite having an apatite crystal structure including metal atoms partially comprising photocatalytic metal.

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14. A food container made of a material to which a metal-modified apatite is added, the metal-modified apatite having an apatite crystal structure including metal atoms partially comprising photocatalytic metal.